

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling manufacture of a sheet material cut into a plurality of sheets of predetermined size, in which the sheets or processed products of the sheets are manufactured by processing the sheets or performing predetermined operations on the processed products of the sheets at each of processing operations or processing sections provided at the processing operations while conveying the sheets along a predetermined line, the method comprising:

cutting the sheet material into the plurality of sheets of predetermined size;

detecting passage of the sheets or the processed products of the sheets by sheet detectors disposed at entrance and exit sides of each of the processing operations or the processing sections where the sheets or the processed products of the sheets enter and exit the processing operations or the processing sections; and

controlling conveyance or manufacture of the sheets or the processed products of the sheets based on results of detection by the sheet detectors,

wherein each of the processing operations or the processing sections comprises a branch path for sorting the sheets or the processed products of the sheets being conveyed, and the sheet detectors are disposed at an entrance side and exit sides of the branch path.

2. - 5 (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) A method for controlling manufacture of a sheet material cut into a plurality of sheets of predetermined size applied to a manufacturing line including an operation section for performing a predetermined operation on the sheets while conveying the sheets along a predetermined conveyance path, the method comprising:

cutting the sheet material into the plurality of sheets of predetermined size;

detecting passage of the sheets sheet detectors respectively disposed at entrance and exit sides of the operation section where the sheets enter and exit the operation section; and

controlling conveyance or manufacture of the sheets based on results of detection by the sheet detectors,

wherein the operation section comprises a branch path for sorting the sheets being conveyed, and the sheet detectors are disposed at an entrance side and exit sides of the branch path.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined operation comprises sorting the sheets.

8. (cancelled).

9. – 17. (cancelled).

18. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 6, wherein:~~ A method for controlling manufacture of a sheet material cut into a plurality of sheets of predetermined size applied to a manufacturing line including an operation section for performing a predetermined operation on the sheets while conveying the sheets along a predetermined conveyance path, the method comprising:

cutting the sheet material into the plurality of sheets of predetermined size;

detecting passage of the sheets by sheet detectors respectively disposed at entrance and exit sides of the operation section where the sheets enter and exit the operation section; and

controlling conveyance or manufacture of the sheets based on results of detection by the sheet detectors,

wherein the operation section includes a sorting section for sorting the sheets and conveying and collecting the sheets into different collection sections, the sorting section including a sheet conveyance path with at least one branch gate, the at least one branch gate operating so as to direct a sheet conveyed thereto to one of different paths therefrom;

sheet detectors are disposed at entrance and exit sides of the at least one branch gate for detecting a sheet that passes through or has passed through the at least one branch gate; and

the ~~determining~~ controlling step ~~determines~~ includes determining a conveyance status of the sheet based on results of detection by the sheet detectors.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the determination is made as to whether or not any failure has occurred in at least one of conveyance and sorting of the sheets.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the conveyance status of a sheet is determined based on checking at least one of the results of detection by the sheet detectors disposed at the entrance and exit sides of the branch gate.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein one of the collection sections is disposed, together with a counter for counting a number of the sheets collected at the respective collection section, at each of terminal ends of the branch paths.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the paths branched from the at least one branch gate directs the sheet toward a next branch gate.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the manufacturing line is controlled so as to stop conveyance of the sheets based on a determination of a failure.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the sheet is produced by cutting to a predetermined length a long material wound in a roll, the method further comprising calculating a number of produced sheets based on a length of the material drawn out from the roll, and comparing a number of the sheets collected in the collection sections with the calculated number of produced sheets.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the comparison between the numbers of the sheets is performed when conveyance of the sheets is stopped.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein at least one of wrapping and packaging the collected sheets is carried out to provide wrapped and/or packaged sheets, the method further comprising the steps of counting a number of sorted sheets and the numbers of at least one of the wrapped and packaged sheets, respectively, and comparing, at a predetermined timing, the number of sorted sheets and the number of the at least one of wrapped and packaged sheets.